



Mid-America Nazarene Coach Gordon DeGraffenreid hugs his touchdown-scorer, Glen Wesley, after the team's stunning victory Saturday over William Jewell. (staff photo by Mark Hinojosa)

Mid-America Nazarene surprises No. 1 Jewell 9-7

By Dale Phelps

sports writer

Gordon DeGraffenreid, the head football coach at Mid-America Nazarene College, says he plans to be at William Jewell College in Liberty in three weeks to watch a playoff game. His team, however, may have prevented the Cardinals from keeping that appointment.

Mid-America Nazarene upset Jewell, the top-ranked team in National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division II, 9-7 Saturday in Olathe, jeopardizing the Cardinals' chance of returning to the playoffs for the third consecutive year.

"I hope the people that do the rating don't knock them down too far," DeGraffenreid said. "I hurt for Vic (Wallace, William Jewell coach). You hate to see a friend hurt. I wish I had a vote. I'd pick them for No. 1."

The loss snapped Jewell's winning streak in regular-season games at 28 and dropped the Cardinals' record to 5-1 in the Heart of America Conference and 6-1 overall. Mid-America, 4-4 and 2-3, has been a college for 14 years, but has played football only the last five seasons.

"This had to be our biggest win," DeGraffenreid said. "We're not going to the

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Lloyd Murray of Mid-America Nazarene is stopped short of a score by a flock of William Jewell Cardinals in the fourth quarter of Mid-America's upset victory Saturday. (staff photo by Mark Hinojosa)

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playoffs this year, so this was our playoff game. We prepared our kids not to stop Jewell, but to do the things we do as a football team."

What the Pioneers did was shut down a Jewell offense that entered the game averaging 414.3 yards a game. The Cardinals, who were averaging 189.6 yards per game rushing and 224.7 yards passing, gained 23 yards in 33 rushing attempts and completed 12 of 24 passes for 155 yards.

The Pioneers took a 6-0 lead in

the first quarter on an 11-play, 40-yard drive set up by a punt that was mishandled after a low snap. Glen Wesley scored on a 1-yard run with 4 minutes, 12 seconds left in the first quarter and the extra-point attempt by Scott Daniels was blocked by Paul Taylor.

In the third quarter Jewell drove to the Mid-America 16. A third-and-6 pass into the end zone fell short of Andre Nelson and on fourth and 6, Wallace decided against a field goal. A second pass to Nelson in the end zone also fell

short with 4:44 left.

The Pioneers were forced to punt on the next possession, but Kenton Barbour knocked the ball away from Taylor, Jewell's kick returner, and the Pioneers Greg Bernius recovered with 20 seconds left in the quarter at the Jewell 35.

Three plays after the fumble, Daniels put Mid-America up 9-0 with a 46-yard field goal.